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Letter to Elaine von Oesen regarding the report of the North Carolina Library Association Committee on Organization, February 20, 1963

Winston Broadfoot

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February 20, 1963

To: Elaine von Oesen, Chairman, Committee on Organization

From: Winston Broadfoot, Chairman, Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The following comments on your report of Feb 5th are submitted for your consideration. My remarks are based on the firm belief that a committee should exist only when a job of some importance needs to be done.

Standing Committees

1. Archives Committee:

There isn't enough work here to keep a bunch of people busy. The Committee should be abolished. What is needed is a specified central deposit for the Association records. The N.C. State Library would be appropriate. The responsibility of getting the records on deposit might rest with the secretary of the Association and those of the sections. It might be well to name someone at the place of deposit to be responsible for the records on deposit. In any event, a committee would function poorly in any part of the program.

2. Constitution and Codes Committee:

This is not a standing committee. When the present draft is completed the Committee should cease to exist. Another should not be formed until such time as the rules need a general overhaul.

3. Education For Librarianship Committee:

While the goals are worthy, this work is being done by professionals traveling out of the State Library and for the Department of Education. I know of nothing the NCLA can do to assist their competence.

4. Library Resources Committee:

I am doubtful that cooperative acquisition and preservation of library materials is possible, though in this I may be wrong. Possibly two libraries might split the costs and the housing of materials but these situations would be few and far between.

The American Library Directory seems to cover function (c) of the Committee. Wherein would the Committee go beyond that publication?

In short, I don't see any real work that can be done here.

5. Nominating Committee:

This, of course, is a necessary committee but it is not a standing committee.

6. Publications Committee:

Since the editor of the North Carolina Libraries does all the work here, he should not be burdened with a committee.

Special Committees

1. Organization Committee:

About the last thing the NCLA needs is an organization manual. The Association is not that complicated and should not be allowed to become so.

2. Special Membership Committee: I am afraid this group will succeed too well. To be an honor, honorary memberships should be few and we don't need a committee to go looking for them.